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Inman to head advisory panel on arms accords

By Bill Gertz
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci has named a U.S. intelligence veteran, retired Adm. Bobby Ray Inman, to head a scientific advisory board on verifying strategic arms accords, according to Pentagon officials.

Adm. Inman, who is former CIA deputy director and former director of the National Security Agency, was chosen last month as chairman of the Defense Science Board's Task Force on Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty Verification Procedures, the officials said.

Adm. Inman, according to U.S. intelligence officials, was a frequent critic of Reagan administration counterintelligence policies until he resigned as the CIA's No. 2 man in April 1982.

He resigned rather than carry out a presidential directive to conduct a study of U.S. counterintelligence capabilities and vulnerabilities, said the officials, who declined to be named.

One official said the admiral opposed the study because he was concerned that the administration's counterspy program would lead to an infringement of civil liberties.

The Defense Science Board is composed of scientists and defense experts who advise Mr. Carlucci and the undersecretary of defense for acquisition on military-related science and technological matters.

Susan Hansen, a Pentagon spokeswoman, said Mr. Inman is chairman of the task force, but that a list of other members was unavailable.

She said in a statement that the task force would hold a series of closed meetings to examine START "verification aspects with regard to

U.S. programs, facilities, technologies and defense contractors."

"Their job is to determine which START verification programs are most appropriate from an acquisition viewpoint," she said.

The advisory task force held its first meeting Feb. 9, according to a Jan. 22 notice in the Federal Register, and is scheduled to meet again

next week and several times in March and April to discuss strategic arms verification procedures.

Reagan administration officials

have said they hope to negotiate a START agreement with the Soviet Union to reduce long-range strategic nuclear weapons in time for a

Moscow summit meeting this spring between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Adm. Inman is chairman of the Westmark Corp., a Texas-based holding company that specializes in purchasing defense electronics firms. This month Westmark announced plans to open a Washington office.

Reached by telephone, Adm. Inman declined to answer questions about his role as task force chairman.

But he denied there was any conflict of interest in his dual roles as the verification task force chairman and head of a defense electronics firm whose primary customer is the U.S. government.

"We're not going to advise on acquisition," he said. "We'll be advising on verifying treaties, such as how do you cope with on-site inspection."

"The total membership of DSB represents various business interests," he added. "We all have to be very

cautious that we don't get into any conflict of interest."

Adm. Inman said that Westmark companies do not deal with the types

of systems used to monitor arms control treaties — usually photographic reconnaissance satellites and electronic listing posts.

Westmark, Adm. Inman said, "deals with defense electronic countermeasures," or electronic warfare systems.

"I have difficulty seeing how that would impact on START verification," he added.

According to officials, other members of the verification task force include:

• Hans M. Mark, 58, a nuclear physicist and engineer who was a member of President Carter's Advisory Group on Science and Technology, and who is now chancellor of the University of Texas.

• William J. Perry, 60, a scientist who served as a Pentagon consultant from 1966 through 1977 and became undersecretary of defense for research and engineering during the Carter administration.

• Robert Herman, 73, a physicist who worked with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission during the Carter administration.